

MONK'S BROOK GREENWAY

By Mrs Pat Loxton and Mrs Mary Smith



SOUTHAMPTON WILDLIFE LINK

Summer 1999

*This booklet is dedicated to the memory of Pat Loxton,
the secretary of Southampton Wildlife Link since its formation.*

*She was a tireless worker for the Link,
and a passionate conservationist. Her intention was to produce a comprehensive survey
of Monk's Brook wildlife, but illness prevented her from completing her plan.*

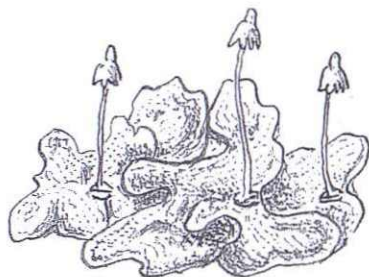
**Monk's Brook Greenway is a report by Southampton Wildlife Link,
a body comprised of representatives from the Natural History
and Conservation groups in Southampton.
It was produced with the assistance of Southampton City Council.**

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Front cover: Branched Bur-reed (*Sparganium erectum*)

MONK'S BROOK GREENWAY

The Monk's Brook Greenway is one of eight occurring in the City. The Greenways are unique features within the City's landscape, formed by ribbons of open space which follow the stream valleys through the urban areas. They now constitute valuable breaks in the built-up areas and, in some cases, reach out into the open countryside beyond.



A common liverwort (*Conocephalum Conium*)

Southampton City Council has established a policy framework for the Greenways to enhance their value as

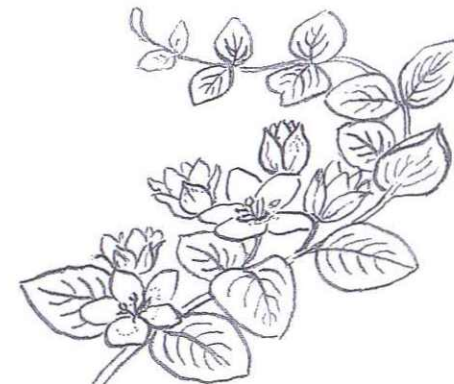
an amenity and for nature conservation.

The Greenway extends from the City boundary to Monk's Bridge; the path follows Monk's Brook from North Stoneham to South Stoneham. The Greenway contains seven distinct ecological units. These include amenity grassland, deciduous woodland, two areas of damp woodland, an area of marsh, four areas of tall herbs and one young plantation.

The Greenway begins below the City boundary in what was once old meadow pasture. This part has a very rich flora and has been given the status of a Site Alert, a special protection for those habitats that cannot be reproduced elsewhere in the City.

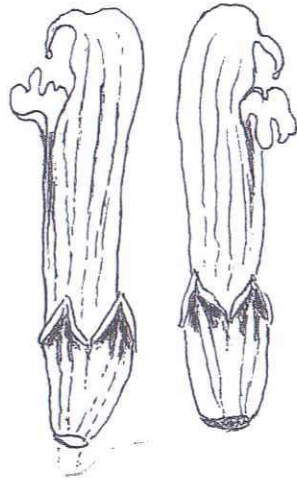
North of the Fleming Arms, the Greenway opens up to an area of lush meadows, and a large area of reeds. This part of the Greenway has been designated a Site Alert in the City's Nature Conservation Strategy thereby

acknowledging its importance as a valuable site, and, safeguarding its future. It is also referred to as the Wildlife Area (A).



Creeping Jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia*)

Following the channelling of its water under the new motorway, the Brook is enclosed by a thick field hedge to the west, and a strip of woodland to the east, with willow species and alder predominating. Most of this old meadow in the Wildlife Area is wetter than it once was, although there are still molehills in the drier places.



Purple Toothwort (*Lathraea clandestina*)

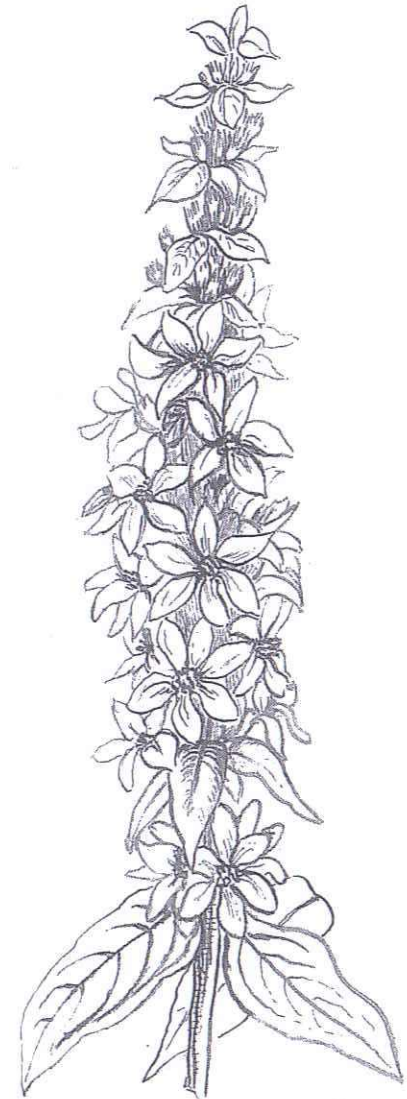
This part of the Greenway is very rich in species. An area of bur-reed marsh occurs in the northern section, a habitat unique within the Greenways. Further down, spring flowers such as iris can soon be overtopped by the lush summer growth of brambles, hogweed, nettles, hemlock water dropwort, Balsam, Codlins-and-cream and Goutweed. The Purple Toothwort (*Lathraea clandestina*), discovered in 1982 on the far bank growing on the roots of Crack Willow and Alder, has now grown away

from the water even onto timber laid for the walkways.

Further down, the Greenway becomes drier, the wet meadow plants giving way to blackberry scrub and dry, woody scrub.

Snails are plentiful, and insect life abundant - butterflies, flies and beetles. Bats are also to be found.

The footpath from South Stoneham crosses the Brook by the entrance to the Wildlife area and follows it to Swaythling. Here (Area B), the banks are not so heavily shaded, and there is a greater variety of trees; Field Maple, Sycamore, Hazel, Ash, Oak, Beech, Hawthorn and Alder. Where the canopy is not closed over, the flora is fairly rich. Typical specimens include Indian Balsam, Common Comfrey, Rough Meadow-grass, Red Campion and, on drier land, Ivy and False Oat-grass.



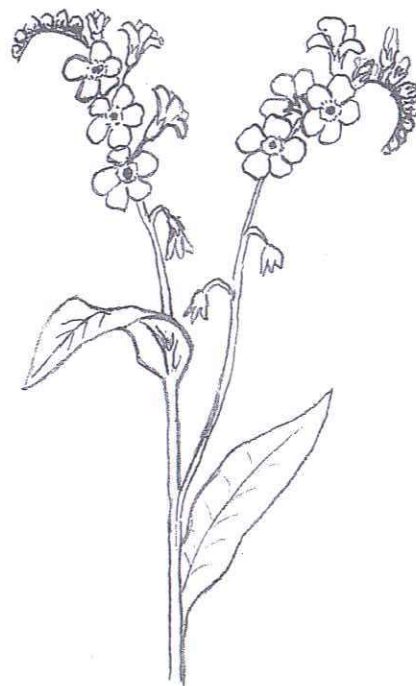
Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)

At Swaythling, the Brook passes under the road to skirt one side of The Grange Open Space. Here, there is an immediate change of character as the stream-bed becomes wider with muddy shallows and patches of gravel in mid-stream. These are as yet bare of vegetation, but the banks, being more open, now support more water plants typical of the River Itchen, Purple Loosestrife, Fleabane, Brooklime and Water Figwort.

On the other side of the path (Area C) grows the hedgerow and meadow flowers of the Grange; Herb Robert, Herb Bennet, Mugwort, Knapweed, Musk Mallow, Lesser Periwinkle and Red Campion. Spring flowers are plentiful; Lesser Celandine, Red and White Deadnettle, Ground-ivy and Dog's-mercury.

Where the Brook reaches the bridge connecting Brookside Way and Wessex Lane (Area D), the path becomes only a few metres in width. In recent years a considerable number of old trees have been removed and, in the early spring, the muddy ground, which is subject to flooding, is carpeted

with Celandines and patches of Purple Toothwort. By high summer, Himalayan Balsam covers most of the area, crowding out most other plants except nettles, hemlock water-Dropwort and Convolvulus. The Balsam overflows onto the path. This invasive alien has spread very rapidly of late. Only where there is a clear patch beside the bridge is there an indication of the more usual riparian flora - a few patches of Forget-me-not.



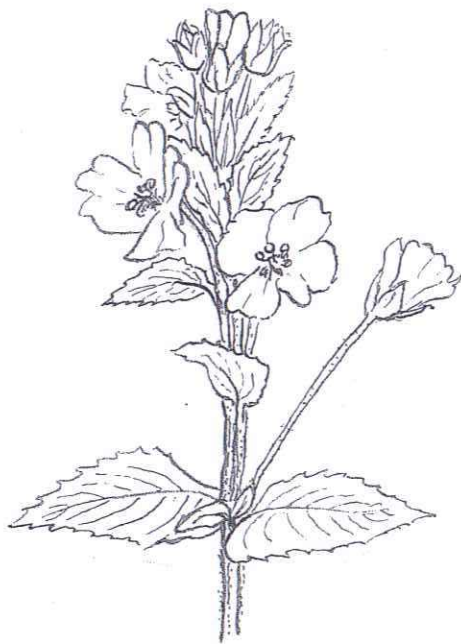
Forget-me-not (*Myosotis scorpioides*)

On the other side of the Brook (Area E), away from the path, west of Edwina House, is a small area of Sallow Carr with Alder. This habitat is at an early successional stage being dominated by Sallow with young Alder present which will grow and cut out the light. The Sallow will then be reduced in cover. Yellow Iris, Hemlock, Water-dropwort, Cleavers and Rough Meadow Grass form a large proportion of the vegetation. Kingfishers are often seen along this stretch of the Brook.

The Greenway finishes at the footbridge carrying the Monk's Path east and west. Below the bridge there has been some clearance of willow, leaving a stand of mature ash trees. The ground cover of the muddy soil is sparse, mainly nettles and more Himalayan Balsam. The Purple Toothwort has now colonised the tree-roots here, on its progress downstream.

To reach Mansbridge in the east, the path can be followed through a stretch of mixed woodland with patches of open ground as far as the houses on one side, and the recreation ground on

the other (Area F). Monk's Brook runs around two sides of this, skirting Woodmill and the Salmon Pool, on its way to the River Itchen. The woodland here, above the Willows along the Brook, supports Oak, Ash, Elm, Horse chestnut, Grey Poplar, Sycamore, Hazel, Hawthorn, Guelder-rose and Apple (domesticated).



Great Hairy Willow-herb (*Epilobium hirsotum*)

Amongst the trees, one can pick up a well trodden path to the field which is separated from the recreation grassland by a thicket of trees and shrubs along a drainage line.

The recreation grassland is cut, leaving a fringe of long grass interspersed with apple trees and hawthorn along the woodland by the River Itchen.

The rough meadow bears a greater variety of wild flowers in profusion, showing what can be regained by careful management. Here there is an abundance of Ragwort, St. John's-wort, Bartsia, Common Mallow, English Stone-crop, Burdock, Thistle, Ox-eye Daisies, Clovers and Buttercups.

Monk's Path ends at Mansbridge Road. Going over the Packhorse Bridge and descending to Riverside Park, offers a very different walk on the other side of the River Itchen.



Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*)

MONK'S BROOK GREENWAY

(The following is courtesy of Philip Budd)

Mammals

Bank Vole
Bats
Frog
Harvest Mouse
Mole
Water Shrew

The proximity of the Itchen Valley Country Park and the Itchen Valley, allows for the movement of species into the Greenway.

Butterflies

Speckled Wood
Gatekeeper
Meadow brown
Red Admiral
Small Tortoiseshell
Peacock
Comma
Large white
Small white
Holly blue
Small Skipper
Large Skipper
Essex Skipper
Brimstone
Orange tip
Painted lady
Small copper

Moths

51 species recorded by Philip Budd at the Grange

Dragonflies

Seen passing through. There is no part of Monk's Brook in this stretch with aquatic vegetation (or sloping banks with reeds etc.), suitable for dragonflies or damselflies. They abound in the nearby reaches of the River Itchen.

Birds

Blackbird
Blackcap
Collared Dove
Duncock
Goldfinch
Greenfinch
Green Woodpecker
House Sparrow
Jay
Kingfisher
Linnet
Magpie
Mallard
Mute Swan
Nightingale
Robin
Wren

FLORA SPECIES

<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Ground Elder
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse Chestnut
<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	Agrimoney
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard
<i>Allium ursinum</i>	Ramsons
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Alder
<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	Wild Angelica
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley
<i>Arctium minus</i>	Lesser Burdock
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat-grass
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Wild Arum
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	Lady-fern
<i>Ballota nigra</i>	Black Horehound
<i>Barbarea vulgaris</i>	Winter-cress
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch
<i>Bidens tripartita</i>	Tripartite Bur-Marigold
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	False Brome-grass

<i>Bromus ramosus</i>	Hairy-brome
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh marigold
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge Bindweed
<i>Cardamine flexuosa</i>	Wavy Bitter-cress
<i>Cardamine pratense</i>	Lady's smock
<i>Carex pendula</i>	Pendulous sedge
<i>Carex remota</i>	Remote Sedge
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common Knapweed
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Greater Celendine
<i>Circaea lutetiana</i>	Enchanter's nightshade
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Hemlock
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel
<i>Craetagus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn
<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	Smooth Hawk's beard
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	Male Fern
<i>Epilobium adenocaulon</i>	American Willowherb
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great Hairy Willowherb

<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	Broad-leaved Willowherb
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Field Horsetail
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash
<i>Frangula alnus</i>	Alder Buckthorn
<i>Galega officinalis</i>	Goat's-rue
<i>Galeopsis tetrahit</i>	Common Hemp-nettle
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers
<i>Galium saxatile</i>	Heath Bedstraw
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved Crane's bill
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb-Robert
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground-ivy
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed
<i>Holcus lantanus</i>	Yorkshire Fog
<i>Holcus mollis</i>	Creeping soft-grass
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate stemmed John's-wort

<i>Hypericum tetrapterum</i>	Square-stemmed St John's-wort
<i>Humulus lupulus</i>	Hop
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly
<i>Impatiens capensis</i>	Orange Balsam
<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	Indian Balsam
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Iris
<i>Juncus conglomeratus</i>	Compact Rush
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft Rush
<i>Juncus inflexus</i>	Hard Rush
<i>Lactula serriola</i>	Prickly Lettuce
<i>Lamium album</i>	White Dead-nettle
<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Red Dead-nettle
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort
<i>Lathraea clandestina</i>	Purple Toothwort
<i>Leontodon autumnalis</i>	Autumn Hawkbit
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Ox-eye Daisy
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Wild Privet
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Bird's foot trefoil
<i>Lycopus europaeus</i>	Gipsywort
<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>	Creeping Jenny

<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple Loosestrife
<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	Apple
<i>Malva moschata</i>	Musk Mallow
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow
<i>Matricaria matricariodes</i>	Pineapple Weed
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Watermint
<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Dog's Mercury
<i>Myosotis scorpiodes</i>	Water Forget-me-not
<i>Odontites verna</i>	Red Bartsia
<i>Oenanthe crocata</i>	Hemlock Water-dropwort
<i>Petasites hybridus</i>	Butterbur
<i>Picris hieracioides</i>	Hawkweed Ox-tongue
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Knotgrass
<i>Polygonum hydropiper</i>	Water Pepper
<i>Polygonum lapathifolium</i>	Pale Persicaria
<i>Populus canescens</i>	Grey Poplar
<i>Prunus domestica</i>	Plum
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn
<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Silverweed

<i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i>	Fleabane
<i>Pinus nigra</i>	Black Pine
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Evergreen Oak
<i>Quercus petraea</i>	Sessile Oak
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate Oak
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	Lesser Celandine
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup
<i>Reynoutria japonica</i>	Knotweed
<i>Ribes nigrum</i>	Black Currant
<i>Ribes rubrum</i>	Red Currant
<i>Ribes uva-crispa</i>	Gooseberry
<i>Rosa arvensis</i>	Field Rose
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Bramble
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Raspberry
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel
<i>Rumex conglomeratus</i>	Clustered Dock
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled Dock
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock
<i>Rumex sanguineus</i>	Wood Dock
<i>Salix alba</i>	White Willow
<i>Salix cinerea</i>	Sallow/grey willow
<i>Salix fragilis</i>	Crack willow

Salix babylonica	Weeping willow
Sambucus nigra	Elder
Scrophularia aquatica	Water-Figwort
Sedum anglicum	English Stonecrop
Senecio jacobaea	Common Ragwort
Senecio vulgaris	Groundsel
Silene dioica	Red Campion
Solanum dulcamara	Bittersweet
Sorbus aucuparia	Rowan
Sparganium erectum	Branched bur-reed
Stachys sylvatica	Hedge Woundwort
Stellaria graminea	Lesser strichwort
Symphytum officiale	Common Comfrey
Symphoricarpus albus	Snowberry
Taraxacum officinale	Dandelion
Taxus baccata	Yew
Trifolium dubium	Lesser Yellow Trefoil
Trifolium pratense	Red Clover
Trifolium repens	White Clover
Tussilago farfara	Colt's foot
Ulex europaeus	Gorze
Ulmus procera	English Elm

Ulmus glabra	Wych Elm
Urtica dioica	Common nettle
Valeriana dioica	Marsh Valerian
Veronica arvensis	Wall Speedwell
Veronica beccabunga	Brooklime
Veronica hederifolia	Ivy-leaved Speedwell
Veronica montana	Wood Speedwell
Veronica persica	Common Field-Speedwell
Viburnum opulus	Guelder-rose
Viburnum lantana	Wayfaring-tree
Vicia sepium	Bush Vetch
Vicia sativa	Common Vetch
Vicia cracca	Tufted Vetch
Vinca minor	Lesser Periwinkle

Liverworts

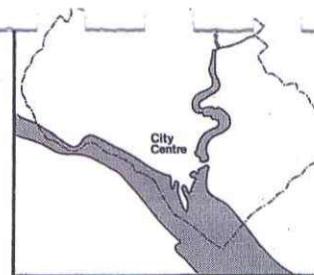
Conocephalum conium is plentiful on the north side of the railway bridge over Monk's Brook.

Southampton Wildlife Link apologises for any errors in the list of flora species.



MONKS BROOK

Greenway



Miles

0

1/4

Metres

250

